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Classification **SECRET**

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Auth: MH 10-2

Date: 25/07/78

COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Storage of Materiel in the Chorwon Area

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO.

**INFORMATION REPORT**

CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: Laborers

REPORT NO.

25X1A

CD NO.

DATE DISTR.

6 March 1951

NO. OF PAGES

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE

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1. In late 1950 a large (undetermined) number of civilian men and women of all ages were conscripted to unload and transport ammunition and supplies in the Yonghak-san (127-43, 38-26) and Kumsong-myon (127-35, 38-26) areas. In January and early February 1951 most of the work of loading or unloading trucks with supplies for the south was carried on at night in railroad tunnels of that area.
2. In early February all tunnels of the railroad line between Chorwon (127-12, 38-15) and Marhwiri (127-59, 38-37) were used to store ammunition and supplies or to conceal an undetermined number of tanks. On 5 February approximately seven tanks were in an unidentified tunnel on this line near Kumsong-myon. All tracks of this line were torn-up or not usable and in early February supplies were being taken to and from the tunnel storage places by trucks.
3. As of 7 February no tunnels on this line had been bombed by UN aircraft and laborers who were working and living in the tunnels heard few aircraft. The laborers were convinced that a strong defense system had been set up on this railroad line, including a large (undetermined) number of troops and an accumulation of large amounts of weapons, ammunition and other supplies.
4. As of 7 February most troops in the area were North Koreans with the exception of a small (undetermined) number of Chinese Communist mechanics and technicians handling and repairing tanks and heavier guns of undetermined caliber.
5. The food supplies for the troops were good, since there were abundant stores of rice and other grains. The laborers were fed only a handful of rice daily; the remainder of their ration consisted of corn or other grain (amount unstated).
6. In early February members of Communist social or political organizations, particularly from the Seoul area, who fled at the UN occupation of Seoul to work for the North Korean army, became disillusioned

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- 2 -

25X1A

and hoped to desert the labor battalions. Desertion is difficult, however, because of the constant surveillance and control by North Korean military authorities.

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